



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 140
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, January 13, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-0198)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang and Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin

Call to Order. (14-0194)

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of January 13, 2014 Meeting attendees. (14-0195)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the January 13, 2014 Meeting Agenda. (14-0196)

On motion of Vice Chair Susan Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, (Commissioners Kang, and Shevlin being absent), this item was approved. Vice Chair Olivas and Commissioner Konigar-Macklin were not present during the vote taken for this item.

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3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of December 16, 2013. (14-0199)

On motion of Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, seconded by Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, (Commissioners Kang, and Shevlin being absent), this item was approved. Vice Chair Olivas and Commissioner Konigar-Macklin were not present during the vote taken for this item.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for January 13, 2014 by Geneva Berger, Chair. (14-0200)

Chair Berger wished everyone a happy New Year and reported the following:

- **The meetings for January 2014 will not be on the first and third Monday due to the forthcoming Martin Luther King Holiday on January 20th. The next meeting this month will take place on January 27, 2014; this meeting will take place in Conference Room B 28E located in the basement of the Hall of Administration.**
- **Commissioner Becky Shevlin is taking on a leave of absence and will not be able to attend Commission meetings for some time.**

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

5. DCFS Director's report for January 13, 2014 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (14-0202)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **Jonathan Byers, DCFS Regional Administrator of the Pomona Office and Katie A. Panel contact, will be leaving the Department. Mr. Byers received an opportunity to work in another jurisdiction. Mr. Byers has been with the Department for approximately 18 years, he will be a great loss. There will be a number of retirements occurring this year. In terms of hiring for vacant and new positions, an open competitive recruitment has been requested to avoid narrowing recruitment to County employees only.**

- Commissioners are encouraged to observe the Social Worker “real life” simulation training. Each simulation provides a different situational setting for the Social Worker to experience. Class size varies from 30 to 40 per class. With new classes scheduled, the Social Workers’ case loads are expected to decrease. Caseloads in “Continuing Services” are expected to decrease to approximately 25 cases per worker. The goal of the Department is to process 350 Social Workers through the Social Work Academy training over the next 11 months. The first training sessions are focused on new social workers coming into the Department; later sessions will focus on existing staff and will be structured as mini versions of the 52-week training. The “real life” simulation training covers “emergency response” and “continuing services” situations. Positive feedback has been received from social workers who have undergone the new training academy.
- [Item No. 5](#) on the January 14, 2014, Board of Supervisors’ Agenda is a motion seeking legislation that addresses DCFS’ limited access to criminal waivers issued by the State to foster family agencies and parents in contract with DCFS. This type of legislation will allow DCFS full access to a database of criminal waivers and help ensure safe placement outcomes.
- Automation of DCFS projects processes is underway. Representatives from Google recently met with Judge Michael Nash to identify ways to improve the data monitoring of psychotropic medication for children. The monitoring of this data will be included in the next DCFS Strategic Plan.
- Currently the Department is in the process of identifying areas that are not captured in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) in order to include in the requirements for the new system that is being worked on at the State level. The State has a target of August, 2014 to receive the requirements from County jurisdictions. DCFS staff is involved in the development of this new system. Commission input is welcome.
- The recently released State Budget showed little change in the child welfare budget and indicated a significant decline in realignment than expected. The figures are forthcoming; however, may be approximately a \$6 to \$8 million cut.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following:

- **In regards to the cultural competency of the training, new workers coming into DCFS seem to mirror the population of DCFS children. There has been an emphasis on cultural competence in the training scenarios. Active recruitment is currently in place for Spanish speaking social workers; however, some of the new social workers speak Spanish. A shortage of social workers to service the Asian population exists.**
- **In terms of DCFS Social Work training with emphasis placed on servicing children under age five, the current training for this need is evolving and changes can be made.**

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

6. **"Homeless but Not Hopeless: The Faith Community Engaging Transition Age Youth (TAY) in South Los Angeles"**
 - Pastor Kelvin Sauls, President, Board of Directors of South L.A. Homeless TAY and Foster Care Collaborative; Senior Pastor, Holman United Methodist Church; Commissioner, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)
 - Gerald Thompson, Executive Director, South L.A. TAY Collaborative; Founder, Pathways to Your Future
 - Janet Kelly, Treasurer, Board of Directors of South L.A. Homeless TAY and Foster Care Collaborative; Executive Director, Sanctuary of Hope
 - Ericka Bernard, TAY Representative
 - Grace Weltman, Consultant, South L.A. Homeless TAY and Foster Care Collaborative; President, Communities in Motion (14-0207)

Ms. Weltman presented the following:

- **Priorities of our collaborative include increasing the leadership, resilience, and transparency among the service providers in South L.A; influencing and informing public policy and delivery systems; raising awareness and increasing community knowledge; mobilizing the Faith based and the broader community; and coordinating resources and services; as well as fostering accountability service providers, government, and community.**
- **In 2013, while an internal consultant for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), I was tasked with conducting and assessment and analysis of the homeless situation in the Second Supervisorial District. In the first stage of the project, 300 homeless people were interviewed with 1/3 being TAY. Through this project, findings indicated that much of the data included in the presentation before your Commission today is incomparable to the actual number of homeless people on the street.**
- **LAHSA conducts a biennial count of homeless people in Los Angeles; this count recently changed to an annual count. In 2013, the data showed South Los Angeles as having the most homeless people in the County. Approximately 17% of the homeless in Service Planning Area 6 (SPA) are under age 24. The data management system at LAHSA tracks homeless people entered into the system when accessing a service. A study conducted over a six month period indicated that 4,000 TAY were entered into the system with 20% of this amount having young children. The difficulty in tracking homeless TAY is that many are resistant to being entered into a system.**

Ms. Kelly added that the LAHSA database tracking is based on homelessness as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which defines homelessness as living in a place not suitable for inhabitation and excludes those who are living from house to house. With this exclusion, the actual numbers of homeless TAY are much higher than the data indicates.

Ms. Weltman continued and explained that 66% of homeless TAY are African American and approximately 30% are Latino. The actual number of Latinos is expected to be higher because Latinos are not likely to report being homeless.

- **Focus groups with homeless TAY indicated that most of the youth did not want to talk about being homeless but, rather wanted to share their**

negative experiences while in foster care. Many of these youth were also in the juvenile probation system.

- The Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership's 2011 study showed that approximately 40% of Hollywood's homeless youth come from South Los Angeles and nearly half of the youth in this study were involved in the child welfare system, and 69% having involvement in juvenile or criminal justice system.
- The Conrad Hilton Foundation's 2011 study, "Young Adult Outcomes of Youth Exiting Dependent or Delinquent Care in Los Angeles County" found that African Americans have a higher rate of being in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Studies show that the African American and Latino TAY are more likely to get involved with a "gang".

Ms. Kelly reported the following:

- Homeless services are primarily targeted at adults and not designed for the TAY population. TAY have no place to go for housing and/or transitional living and no infrastructure is in place for permanent housing. This population experiences several unnecessary barriers to accessing housing which prolongs their homelessness and many are on the verge of becoming chronically homeless. TAY fear ending up on skid row and not having a way out.
- Many of the existing programs do not take into consideration the risk factors TAY face in the program's design. Additionally, resources that meet the needs of TAY families are not available. Many TAY will lose their life to street violence without the needed services or safety nets.

Mr. Thompson added that some agencies will not accept TAY into their programs because they are not receiving any sort of funding or government assistance. Part of the Collaborative's work is focused on coordinating resources among services providers and community agencies so that TAY will have access to resources that meet their needs.

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. DISCUSSION

7. Discussion and approval of the Commission's Fiscal Year 2012/13 Annual Report. (14-0208)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq., unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang and Shevlin being absent), this item was approved. Commissioners Curry, Kamlager and Konigar Macklin were not present during the vote taken for this item.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-0203)

There were none.

Announcements

9. Announcements for the meeting of January 13, 2014. (14-0204)

There were none.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-0205)

No members of the public addressed the Commission

Adjournment

11. Adjournment of the meeting of January 13, 2014. (14-0206)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.